address all relevant issues and also to work out a comprehensive Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy ensuring livelihood from the project to at least one person from each displaced family. Ministry of Rural Development in formulating a new Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy and also a Land Acquisition Amendment Bill.

**Rates of inflation under WPI**

†3686 DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rates of inflation under the wholesale price index have been published by the Office of Economic Adviser in Ministry of Commerce and Industry;

(b) if so, for which weeks from 9th September, 2006, till date, the inflation rates have been published;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is difference between the rates published earlier and the rates published recently; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof, and the reasons for these published rates being generally higher than the previously published rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For every week since 9th September, 2006 till the week ending 21st April, 2007.

(c) and (d) The weekly index of wholesale prices at the time of its initial compilation (with a lag of two weeks) is provisional because all the expected data is not received by then. The provisional index is made 'final' after a further period of eight weeks, by which time more of the required price data is expected to have become available. There may be difference between the rates of inflation published provisionally and the final rates of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

inflation published subsequently due to difference between the provisional and the final WPI.

**Effect and reduction of import duty on natural rubber**

3687. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:
PROF. P.J. KURIEN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to reduce import duty on natural rubber, for purchases from Thailand;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it would affect adversely the rubber growers in the country;

(d) whether Government are aware that due to increased imports during the year 2006-07, the indigenous price of natural rubber has come down, to the detriment of rubber growers, particularly in Kerala; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, and the steps taken by Government to protect the rubber growers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Total import of natural rubber during November, 2006 to March, 2007 was 60,897 tonnes as against 10,721 tonnes during the same period in the previous year. During the period from October, 2006 to January, 2007, international prices were lower than the domestic prices and in the remaining period domestic prices have been lower than international prices. As a result thereof, there was surge in imports and prices declined in the domestic market. The average price of RSS 4 grade of natural rubber at Kottayam market was Rs. 9757 per 100 kg in February, 2007 it was Rs. 9057 in March, 2007 and Rs. 8979 in April, 2007.

The Natural Rubber (NR) carries an import duty and there has been no change in the duty structure. India has also kept all the traded forms of